

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

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Each year, the County spends hundreds of millions of dollars to help youth and their families in crisis. However, I am concerned that millions of dollars are being spent on programs that are not proven to truly strengthen families.

This is due, in part, to the fact that we often wait to address problems reactively. For example, when helping an abused child, we should also work to stabilize and rebuild the child's family to give the child a permanent home and prevent future crises. Research shows that proven, "evidence-based" programs exist that can achieve these results and save the taxpayers thousands of dollars for each family served.

The statistics on children who are not reunited with their birth families or alternatively placed in a permanent home through adoption are appalling. About 25% of these children become homeless within two-and-a half to four years after leaving foster care at the age of emancipation. Nearly 50% are unemployed and 42% have either fathered or given birth to a child.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has already developed strategies to try to create a new way of working with families, including by working to include performance-based outcomes in contracts for children's services. However, it is necessary to expand these strategies to place more focus on stabilizing families and promoting permanency countywide.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, THAT the Department of Children and Family Services report back in 90 days with the following: A detailed plan and timeline to implement a pilot project that will demonstrate how best to stabilize families and obtain permanent homes for children through evidence-based models. The plan should include a written description of how Children's Social Workers and community partners will work together when interacting with families and what is required to support them to successfully change how we work with families.

BC/jh